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**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No.: 20143-000110US  
*#4*

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On  
MAY 02 2001  
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
By: *Time Carr Carr*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

MICHAEL D. POWELL

Application No.: 09/747,748

Filed: December 22, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR A CRYPTOGRAPHICALLY  
ASSISTED COMMERCIAL  
NETWORK SYSTEM  
DESIGNED TO FACILITATE  
IDEA SUBMISSION,  
PURCHASE AND LICENSING  
AND INNOVATION TRANSFER

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 3, lines 11 through 17, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

--Therefore, there is a need to utilize the power of the Internet and to allow for the implementation of a unique business model to manage effectively and efficiently a marketplace for raw ideas—in short, to manage innovation. There is a need to allow novice and expert innovators alike to present confidentially or nonconfidentially their ideas, innovations and inventions directly or globally to individuals and companies capable of implementing the innovation and possessing the resources needed to exploit the opportunity.--